

NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY.

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April 9th, 1918.

Dr. W. H. Vail Made Head Of Negro Welfare League

Dr. W. H. Vail was elected president of the State Negro Welfare League at its annual business session yesterday afternoon in the lecture room of the First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Vail was proposed for this office by Augustus V. Hamburg, the retiring president, who was nominated for re-election, but declined to permit his name to be considered. In withdrawing his name Mr. Hamburg explained that while interested in the work he felt he must retire because of the pressure of many responsibilities, especially as he was under orders of the War Department and must give much time to the appeal work of the Second Division Board in the army selective service system.

Other officers elected were according to the ticket reported by Miss Virginia Robinson, chairman of the nominating committee, as follows: Vice presidents, Dr. W. G. Alexander of Orange, Dr. George Cannon, Jersey City, and Rev. T. D. Bolden; secretary-treasurer, A. W. MacDougall. A board of managers of sixty-three members was also elected, including a large number who served in that capacity last year.

A report by the treasurer, Mr. MacDougall, showed receipts up to January amounting to \$1,502.01 and expenditures of \$886.71. Receipts to March, including the balance on hand January 1, were stated as totaling \$814.29 and expenditures during that period \$515.55, leaving a balance March 1 of \$298.74.

Practical accomplishments in improving housing conditions, employment and recreational facilities were told in a report presented by William M. Ashby, executive secretary, who also mentioned social welfare and relief work done by a committee of friendly visitors. The league was able to furnish a list of rooms and apartments for fifty colored laborers when asked to do so by the Submarine Boat Corporation. Mr. Ashby's report showed, it told also of the study of negro housing in this city made by him. In this connection he expressed appreciation for the publicity given this subject by the News. At the close of the meeting the league adopted a resolution of thanks to the News and to Mr. Hamburg.

In bettering employment conditions the league not only placed 233 men and women but Mr. Ashby gave a number of talks in industrial plants employing negro labor. In this field Mr. Ashby suggested the league is handicapped by its small force of workers. Many calls for labor cannot be answered because of the inadequacy of the league's office facilities.

The recreation center established by the Board of Education in response to an appeal for the use of a school as a community center was reported by Mr. Ashby and the opening of a room for a colored boys' club by the Female Charitable Society was also acknowledged.

Co-operation of the State Board of Tenement House Supervision, the Department of Health and various private societies was mentioned.

Members of the league expressed the hope that a larger number of white people would attend the second annual public meeting to be held at the First Presbyterian Church next Monday night at 8 o'clock. The speakers expected are Mayor Gillen, Rev. Dr. William J. Dawson, pastor of the church; Rev. A. E. Rankin, chaplain of the 349th Field Artillery; Miss Nannie Burroughs

and E. K. Jones. Music will be furnished by a quartet of negro soldiers from Camp Dix.